

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 EUR-25 SAJ-01

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R 100901Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3266

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 2285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS, KN

SUBJ: PRESIDENT ISSUES FURTHER WARNING OF NORTH KOREAN ATTACK

REF: SEOUL 2092

1. PRESIDENT PARK, SPEAKING BEFORE GRADUATING NAVAL ACADEMY CADETS
APRIL 9, WARNED THAT NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS WERE BUILDING UP
NAVAL FORCES ALONG COASTS NEAR ARMISTICE LINE AND CALLED ON ROK
NAVY TO BUILD "POWERFUL COMBAT CAPABILITY READY TO SMASH ANY
RENEWED MILITARY PROVOCATIONS BY THE NORTH."

2. REPEATING NOTE OF URGENCY CONTAINED IN SPEECHES AT MILITARY AND
AIR FORCE ACADEMY GRADUATIONS AT END OF MARCH (REFTEL), PRESIDENT
ACCORDING TO PRESS SAID NORTH KOREANS HAD BUILT NEW NAVAL STATION
NEAR ARMISTICE LINE AND WERE CONTINUOUSLY INCREASING NAVAL MISSILE
CAPABILITIES, HIGH SPEED BOATS, VARIOUS TORPEDO BOATS, AND LANDING
CRAFT. AT THE SAME TIME, PARK CLAIMED, THEY FREQUENTLY VIOLATED
WATERS CONTIGUOUS TO SOUTHERN ISLANDS AND INFILTRATED ARMED SPY
SHIPS INTO SOUTH, INTENSIFYING THEIR SCHEME TO RENEW ARMED
INVASION.

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3. PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THAT ADEQUACY OF SOUTH'S RESPONSE NOT

PRIMARILY DEPENDENT ON EQUIPMENT BUT ON SPIRITUAL POWER AND DISCIPLINE AS WELL AS COMBAT TACTICS AND SKILL OF ROK NAVY OFFICERS AND MEN. HE CALLED ON MILITARY COMMANDERS TO FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON THESE MATTERS.

4. COMMENT: AS IN EARLIER TWO SPEECHES PARK HAS EMPHASIZED PACE OF NORTHERN MILITARY FORCE BUILD UP AND POSSIBILITY OF ATTACK. WHILE AGAIN TAILORING HIS REMARKS TO FIT HIS AUDIENCE AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES, PARK'S REMARKS ALSO underscore HIS PERSONAL AND INCREASINGLY OBSESSIVE CONCERN OVER THE COMMUNIST THREAT.
HABIB

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